(ख) क्या इस निर्यात की मात्रा पिछले वर्ष से अधिक है; यदि हां, तो कितनी; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो देश से वस्त्र निर्यात के प्रतिशत में कमी के क्या कारण हैं?

वस्त्र मंत्री (श्री काशी राम राणा): (क) हस्तशिल्प, पटसन तथा कयर सहित वस्त्र का निर्यात अप्रैल-दिसंबर, 1998 के दौरान 9,177.8 अमरीकी डालर (अनंतिम) है जो 1997 की उसी अवधि के आंकड़े की तुलना में 1.6 प्रतिशत कम है। निर्यातों में कमी का मुख्य कारण दक्षिण-पूर्व एशियाई मुद्रा संकट, कुछ वस्त्र आयातक देशों में मंदी आदि है।

Export of readymade garmets from Punjab

1698. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of readymade garments exported from Punjab during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 as on date;

(b) the amount of foreign exchanges earned therefrom during the period;

(c) whether Government are taking any corrective steps to promote and encourage readymade garments industries of Punjab; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) The state-wise readymade garments expot statistics is not maintained by the Apparel Export Promotion Council. However, the exports of readymade garments from India during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 (till February, 1999) have been as follows:

Year	Value in Million US$
1996-97	4,762.10
1997-98	4,910.70
1998-99 (till Feb., '99)	4,767.60

(c) and (d) In order to encourage the export of garments from India including Punjab, Government have been taking a number of steps, which include encouraging exporters to participate in buyer-seller meets, fairs and exhibitions, enabling import of capital goods at concessional duty for export production; special arrangements for duty free import of raw materials for export production, etc. Besides, in order to promote human resource development in fashion design and technology, particularly for the garment export industry, the National Institute of Fashion Technology provides assistance to Northern India Institute of Fashion Technology (NIIFT), Mohali, by giving them certain academic and technical support.

Sanctioning of quotas through internet

1699. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have introduced a computerised system of sanctioning quotas through Internet, from 1st January this year;

(b) whether it has any lacunae;

(c) whether introduction of this system has created any problem for the garment exporters; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) to (d) The Electronic Transfer Scheme (ETS) for transfer of quotas with the help of an on line computer network was introduced by the Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) w.e.f. 8th Septmeber, 1998. The ETS does not have any lacunae. However, there were complaints during January, 1999 that exporters who had immediate shipments were facing some difficulties becuase the ETS procedures led to delay in transfers, especially in categories where sufficient quantities were not offered at prices that the transferee considered to be reasonable. To avoid any problem arising from any such delay, AEPC has recently announced relaxation in the Electronic Transfer Scheme (ETS) permitting mutual transfers without any restrictions for a period of 60 days from 8-2-1999 to 8-4-1999. Such mutual transfers would be displayed on the display machines of regional offices and website of AEPC. AEPC is also taking steps for educating exporters for better utilisation of ETS by them.